Newscenter 13

Eau Claire, Wisconsin

(A copy of this video tape has been lodged with the Clerk of Court.)

Reporter: Tonight on "AIDS In A Small Town" we continue to tell you the story of a man we call Rick. Tonight the story is of a man spreading a virus.

Rick: I will never tell anyone what I have. That is kind of stupid.

Reporter: Why is that?

Rick: It kills your sex life.

Reporter: We have introduced to you a man we are calling Rick. Rick is homosexual, he lives in Eau Claire, and he carries the AIDS virus. What we haven't told you yet is that he claims

to be spreading the virus by having anonymous sex with other men. Does that bother you at all that you are spreading the disease?

Rick: No, I look at it as to the point that in riding in a car. If you get into a car with somebody and there is a seatbelt available to you and you don't use it and you get killed, whose fault is it? To a point I feel a little guilty but I always have condoms and if no one wants to use them or no one suggests it then hey, whose fault is it?

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Harlan Heinz, Psychologist: It is not much different from the killer, the person who goes around murdering people without a conscience. I think that is a similar kind of lack of character

development. I think that that is an exception. Some people who feel that they are going to die in a few years would have this attitude. But I think that's few, I think that's an exception and it is a person without a conscience or without any kind of feeling for the welfare of mankind.

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Dr. Michael Finkel: Anyone who continues to behave irresponsibly in such matters should have some sort of penalty. There should be some way that we can stop these people.

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Dr. Ken Alder: This is really distressing. I think that a person who does these things is very definitely a risk to other peoples' health.

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Harlan Heinz, Psychologist: It is very difficult to treat a person like this and I think that basically you would not be able to cure this person. This mind would be very difficult to reach.

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Reporter: Right now, Wisconsin has no law specifically against the spreading of AIDS. But there could be a law coming very soon.

Gov. Tommy Thompson: I don't know if we want to classify it as a felony but I am certainly looking at some sort of criminal sanctions.

Reporter: Can you get specific at all?

Gov. Tommy Thompson: We haven't really resolved or made a final decision on it. We are looking at a lot of legislation this year to protect the citizens...

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Reporter: Rick says if Thompsons's administration gets a law approved restricting the spread of AIDS, he will obey it. But until then he will continue his lifestyle and that includes anonymous sex with other men.

How are you doing that, where all do you have sex?

Rick: Basically, I go to all the bookstores.

Reporter: Eau Claire's adult bookstores show adult movies inside private booths.

Booths no larger than a small closet. But in many of the booths, there are small holes made in the walls. The holes are about waist high off of the floor.

Who do you meet in these rooms?

Rick: I have seen a few married men in there.

Reporter: Do you have most of your sex in adult bookstores?

Rick: Yeah.

Reporter: Is that the easiest way for you to have sex is through these holes?

Rick: Very easy.

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Reporter: You have a hole in one of your booths. Why is that hole there?

Bookstore owner: That hole was there when the booth came down here from Chicago. And it has been there ever since I have had that booth and I have had that booth there since 1984 when they came in here with all that stuff.

Reporter: Glen Peterson runs an adult bookstore in Eau Claire. The hole in one of the booths looks as if a knot of wood was punched out. Peterson said he has tried to block it twice but he has given up because it has been repeatedly removed. Today we told him Rick's story of spreading the virus.

Does that make you want to get rid of the hole more?

Bookstore owner: Yeah. I think that I will make sure I can patch this up good where they can't tear it down again because I don't want to get sued if somebody else catches AIDS over this. So I am going to have to take care of it today, I guess.

Reporter: And although it seems Glen Peterson knows what he is going to do, the City of Eau Claire sure doesn't seem to. City Attorney Ted Fischer says there is no ordinance on the books dealing with the issue at this time, though Milwaukee and St. Paul do. And Councilperson Wally Rogers says it may be up to the Health Board to take action but Health Board President Tom Henry says it might be up to the city to have an ordinance first. We will have more on that as our series continues.